Corsica River Restoration

Project Summary

Location: Corsica River Watershed
Queen Anne's County

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Corsica River Demonstration Project

In the past, restoration resources have been spread state-wide and generally stabilized water quality or produced small improvements in many areas. Yet this has not resulted in the State being able to declare that a large water body has been restored. The Corsica Watershed Project is a pilot program to develop best business practices and implement the processes, partnerships, assessment, and implementation tools needed to meet that threshold for restoring a single sub-watershed of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.

Project Goal

The project's goal is to attain the new State water quality standards in the Corsica River and remove the Corsica River from the Impaired Waters List (303(d) list) with an initial focus on nutrients and sediment, concurrent with planning and assessment to address other impairments. This pilot project is designed to be the first time water quality standards are achieved in tidal waters in Maryland through a comprehensive, proactive watershed restoration project.

Corsica River Impairments

- Tidal Nutrient Impairment (nitrogen and phosphorous)
- Non-tidal Biological Degradation in 2 sub-watersheds
- Tidal Sediment Impairment
- Tidal Toxic Impairment for PCB's
- Tidal Bacteria Impairment (Fecal coliform)
- Anticipated Tidal Water Clarity Impairments

Major Implementation/Monitoring Components

In order to successfully address the priority nutrient and sediment Clean Water Act 303(d) list impairments in the Corsica River, the following activities need to be implemented in the watershed:

- Upgrade and Maintain Centreville Sewage Treatment Plant at Enhanced Nutrient Management
- Establish and maintain 4,000 acres of cover crops and 2,000 acres of small grain enhancements
- Treat 300 acres of urban lands with stormwater management
- Establish 100 acres of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program buffers
- Implement 50 acres Horse Pasture Management best management practices
- Retrofit 30 septic systems with denitrification technology
- Establish 200 acres of forested buffers on non-agricultural land
- Restore 50 acres of wetlands and 2 miles of stream channel
- Restore 10 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation and 20 acres of oysters beds
- Monitor the effectiveness of best management practices and water quality parameters in the tidal Corsica River

Overall Cost

Cost is estimated at **$19,422,653 over five years**.

Cover Crops

Wetland Creation

Homeowner BMPs

Spray Irrigation

Implementation of varius best management practices and restoration projects will enhance and protect the Corsica River for future generations.